



LEOFF Plan 2 Rules for State Elected Officials

Washington State Department of Retirement Systems

The following rules apply to state elected officials who choose to be covered by LEOFF Plan 2 while in elected office. Additional rules governing all LEOFF Plan 2 members are summarized in the LEOFF Plan 2 Member Handbook.

You are eligible to participate in LEOFF Plan 2 while in office if:

- You have been elected or appointed to a statewide office (for example, Representative or Senator in the state legislature), and
- You are a LEOFF Plan 2 member when elected to office.

You are not required to belong to a retirement system while in office.

You have the option of joining PERS Plan 2 rather than continuing your LEOFF 2 membership. See the PERS Plan 2 State Elected Official rules sheet.

If you are a former LEOFF Plan 2 member at the time of your election you are not eligible to resume LEOFF Plan 2 membership, however, you may be eligible to become a PERS Plan 2 member. See the PERS Plan 2 State Elected Official rules sheet..

How do I continue LEOFF Plan 2 membership?

If you choose to be covered by LEOFF Plan 2, you must notify the Department of Retirement Systems that you are taking a leave of absence for the express purpose of serving in elected office.

To remain a LEOFF Plan 2 member during subsequent terms of office, you must apply for membership at the beginning of each new term.

Your membership decision is final:

Once you have established retirement system membership, you must remain a member until you separate from all eligible public employment.

How much service credit will I earn?

The amount of your retirement benefit is determined in part by the amount of service credit you accumulate. As a state elected official, you:

- Earn one month of service credit for each month during which you earn compensation pursuant to your elected position.
- Can earn no more than one service credit month in any calendar month even if you are employed with another LEOFF-covered employer.

Service in any state elective position is considered full-time service. For each full year of elected service, you are eligible for one year of service credit.

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Can I receive credit for past elected service?

You are not eligible to purchase credit for previous elected service. However, you can become a PERS member and recover previous credit.

What will my retirement benefit be?

As a Plan 2 member, you will receive a service retirement benefit based on the following formula:

$$\text{Months of service credit} / 12 \times 2\% \times \text{Final Average Salary} = \text{Yearly benefit}$$

Final Average Salary (FAS) is the monthly average of your 60 consecutive highest-paid service credit months. Not included are payments for any type of severance pay, such as lump-sum payments for deferred sick leave, vacation or annual leave.

How much will I contribute to my retirement fund?

Plan 2 contribution rates are variable and may be changed as necessary to reflect the cost of the plan.

As a legislator how do I calculate my basic salary?

For any year in which you serve in the legislature, you have the option of choosing the greater of:

- The compensation you would have earned in your previous covered position if you had not served in the legislature, or
- The combined compensation you earned for your legislative service and your non-legislative public employment.

If you select the option that produces the higher basic salary, you must pay the employee and employer contributions based on that higher compensation.

What if I am a retired LEOFF Plan 2 member when elected?

If you are a retired LEOFF Plan 2 member when elected to office, you have the option of remaining retired and continuing to receive your retirement allowance while serving in office, or becoming an active PERS 2 member.

You can become an active PERS 2 member by applying to the Department of Retirement Systems. If you become a PERS 2 member, you will stop receiving a monthly LEOFF retirement benefit. You will make contributions to and accumulate service credit in PERS 2. Any retirement benefit you receive during your current term must be repaid. See the PERS Plan 2 Rules for State Elected Officials information sheet.

How do I enroll?

Contact DRS and provide the following information:

- Name
- Social Security Number
- Address and phone number
- Position title and employer
- Beginning date of each term of elected service (for recovery of previous service you will need to provide both beginning and ending dates for each of your terms of service)

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You may also request an estimate of the cost of purchasing credit for previous service.

You can write DRS at:

Department of Retirement Systems

PO Box 48380

Olympia, WA 98504-8380

Questions?

To discuss the application of these rules to your specific case, call the DRS Central Reception Desk and ask to speak to the Legislative and Legal Services Unit.

DRS's **central telephone number** is toll free 1-800-547-6657 or locally (360) 664-7000.

Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays.

THIS PUBLICATION IS A SUMMARY

This brochure does not contain a complete description of the law. If there are conflicts between the information contained in this brochure and retirement law, the applicable law will govern.

This publication is available in alternate formats. For information contact DRS Member Publications at (360) 664-7278.